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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 27 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the further escalation of tensions and deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, due to the incessant, systematic brutality and aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people.

Today, the Israeli occupying forces killed another young Palestinian man in a military raid in the pre-dawn hours in the town of Bir Zeit north of Ramallah. Mo'taz Washaha, age 24, was brutally killed in the raid when the occupying forces besieged the home for approximately six hours and then began arbitrarily firing on it with heavy weaponry, including artillery shells. The occupying forces claimed that the intention was to once again arrest Washaha, who had been previously imprisoned by Israel. The manner in which this young man was violently pursued and attacked indicates a wilful intention to kill by the occupying forces. Moreover, it is yet another testament to the pervasive insecurity and abnormality of life for the Palestinian people, particularly Palestinian males, under Israel's occupation, including those who have suffered Israeli imprisonment and detention and the abuses and torture rampant in captivity and must live in constant fear of repeated arrest and violence by the Israeli occupying forces.

Such brutality by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian civilian population is being perpetrated in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and human rights law. The legal obligation to ensure the protection of civilians is being deliberately and systematically violated by Israel, as it continues its military attacks and excessive use of force against unarmed, defenceless civilians throughout the cities, towns, villages and refugee camps of Occupied Palestine, exhibiting a cruel disregard for human life and inflicting civilian casualties and widespread suffering and trauma, including among children and youth, women and elderly

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persons. Since the resumption of peace negotiations in July 2013, the Israeli occupying forces have killed 44 Palestinians and injured hundreds of other civilians and have carried out more than 3,360 military raids, including air strikes against the besieged Gaza Strip. Moreover, the Palestinian people continue to endure other human rights violations and crimes at the hands of the occupying Power, including, but not limited to, the confiscation and colonization of their land, the destruction of their homes and properties, forced displacement, imprisonment and administrative detention, physical and psychological abuse and torture, settler terrorism, exploitation and all means of collective punishment.

Even the right to peaceful protest and non-violent resistance to the occupation are being violently suppressed by the Israeli occupying forces, with routine attacks perpetrated against civilian demonstrators. In recent days, dozens of Palestinians have sustained injuries due to such excessive force. This includes attacks today on a protest in Al-Khalil, where the occupying forces shot rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas canisters at civilian protesters, the injury of several Palestinians in a raid today in Nablus, and the injury of at least 13 Palestinians yesterday in Al-Khalil in a protest marking the twentieth anniversary of the massacre committed by an Israeli settler against Palestinian worshippers at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque, an act of terror that the Security Council rightly condemned in its resolution 904 (1994). Also, this week, yet another Palestinian man died in Israeli detention. Jihad Abdelrahman Al-Taweel, age 47, died on 24 February 2014, as a result of critical injuries sustained in an assault by Israeli prison guards earlier this month.

In this connection, we draw attention to a new report by the human rights organization Amnesty International and its findings that the Israeli occupying forces routinely use unnecessary, arbitrary and brutal force against the Palestinian civilian population, constituting a clear pattern of unlawful killings and injuries that appear to be a matter of policy. Further, as concluded in the report, "such arbitrary and abusive use of force contravenes policing standards that protect the right to life and other human rights and they also violate international humanitarian law applicable in territories under foreign military occupation, including the West Bank".

The international community must view such human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law by Israel, the occupying Power, with utmost seriousness, as they are aggravating tensions, worsening the fragile situation on the ground and imposing severe hardship on the Palestinian people. The persistence of this unlawful behaviour also reconfirms the deep doubts among many regarding Israel's claimed commitment to peace, indicating that Israel is actually not interested in ending its nearly 47-year occupation. Moreover, such actions allude to an intention by Israel to provoke and incite against the Palestinian people, their leadership, their land and their holy places, particularly Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem, until it completely destabilizes the situation and sabotages the peace efforts being exerted by the United States, with the support of the League of Arab States, the Quartet and the international community as a whole.

The international community, particularly the Security Council, has a responsibility to address this critical situation in order to avert a further escalation and salvage the prospects for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which remains a threat to international peace and security. Here, it must be stressed that the existence of peace negotiations does not absolve the Security Council of its Charter responsibilities and role in this regard. Israeli violations must be condemned

and it must be demanded of the occupying Power that it cease all of its violations and crimes against the Palestinian people. To remain silent in the face of such gross violations is unacceptable and will only bolster Israel's impunity and further delay the realization of a just and lasting peace and an end to the human suffering caused by this prolonged, tragic conflict.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 486 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 25 February 2014 (A/ES-10/617-S/2014/128) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/ES-10/619–S/2014/154

General Assembly
Security Council

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6 March 2014

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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 5 March 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing turmoil and deterioration of the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine due to illegal and provocative policies that continue to be pursued by Israel, the occupying Power.

In grave violation of international humanitarian law, namely the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, the occupying Power carried out a military strike yesterday, 4 March 2014, that killed two Palestinians in Beit Hanoun in the north of the besieged Gaza Strip. Musab Mousa Al-Za'anin (21 years old) died immediately from the missile strike and Sharif Nasser (31 years old) died hours later of injuries he sustained in the attack. In addition to the killing of these two civilians, the missile attack, which was fired at an orchard adjacent to several houses, injured several civilians, including a seven-year-old girl who remains in critical condition. The missile attack also seriously damaged homes, some possibly beyond repair, as well as other civilian properties.

This attack was preceded on Friday, 28 February, by the killing by Israeli occupying forces of a Palestinian woman, Amneh Qudeih (57 years old), near Israel's so-called "security buffer zone", also in Gaza. Reports indicate that Qudeih, who was mentally disabled, was shot at 10 p.m. (Palestine time) and family members only discovered her body at 6 a.m. (Palestine time) the next morning. Qudeih's body was found directly across from an Israeli watchtower, with gunshots to her abdomen. For more than seven hours, Qudeih's body remained there, bleeding profusely from bullet wounds, deliberately denied medical attention that could have been lifesaving. In a press release dated 4 March, B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, noted that the killing of Qudeih marks the fifth incident in the past three months in which Palestinian civilians in Gaza were killed near the so-called "security buffer zone".

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It must be recalled that the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are entitled to protection under international humanitarian law. They must not continue to be denied this protection and to be subjected to the merciless assaults and systematic human rights violations being perpetrated by the occupying Power with complete impunity. In this regard, we also reiterate the demand for the immediate and full lifting of the inhumane, illegal and immoral blockade imposed by Israel, the occupying Power, on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which amounts to the collective punishment of 1.7 million people. This blockade, coupled with the constant death, destruction and trauma inflicted by the occupying Power, has gravely compounded their suffering and misery.

In addition, Israel has continued apace with its systematic detention, arrest and abuse of Palestinian civilians, many of them youth, further fuelling tensions and resentment among the Palestinian population against the oppressive policies of this brutal, prolonged occupation. In this regard, the Israeli occupying forces arrested more than 31 Palestinian youths between the ages of 13 and 18, throughout the occupied West Bank, in just the period between 16 and 26 February 2014. This brings the number of children who are illegally held by Israel to 187 out of the 5,200 Palestinians currently captive in Israeli detention centres or prisons. Here it is to be recalled that, since 1967, more than 650,000 Palestinians have been detained by Israel, the occupying Power, representing 20 per cent of the total Palestinian population and 40 per cent of all males in the Occupied State of Palestine. It goes without saying that actions such as unlawfully and inhumanely imprisoning Palestinian civilians, particularly children, deepen mistrust and poison the environment surrounding the peace negotiations.

Moreover, we are compelled to once again draw attention to the continuation of Israel's illegal colonization campaign in all its manifestations in Occupied Palestine, including in East Jerusalem. We reiterate our calls on the international community to uphold international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions in this regard with a view to bringing a halt to Israel's construction and expansion of settlement building and its related infrastructure in the Palestinian land. Prior to and during the current peace negotiations we have sent numerous letters drawing attention to Israel's unabated, illegal settlement activities, which have also involved the demolition of homes and the forced displacement and dispossession of hundreds of Palestinian families. Regrettably, these calls by the international community have gone unheeded and have allowed Israel to continue with its illegal and destructive policies without fear of consequence

In this regard, yesterday, 4 March, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics revealed a 123 per cent rise in construction of settlements in the occupied West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem, relative to 2013. It went on to note that construction of a total of 2,534 settlement units was initiated in the settlements, compared to 1,133 units in 2012. Such reports, especially those revealed from Israeli sources, seriously call into question Israel's professed commitment to the two-State solution and to the path of peace and rather confirms its intention to undermine all efforts aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. The grave threat posed by Israel's settlement campaign to the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders is widely acknowledged. Moreover, we must underscore the fact that such Israeli policies and actions, systematically and wilfully

pursued, constitute war crimes under the Fourth Geneva Convention and under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We reiterate the urgent appeals for international efforts to hold Israel, the occupying Power, accountable for its grave breaches and to compel its immediate cessation of all illegal activities in order to salvage the small chance that remains for achieving a peaceful solution based on the long-standing international consensus in this regard. Moreover, we reiterate our calls, in particular to the Security Council, to uphold its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and compel Israel to end its military attacks against the Palestinian civilian population throughout Palestine, including in besieged Gaza Strip, and to end its illegal and immoral blockade. This is imperative for reducing tensions, promoting calm and allowing for emergence of an environment truly conducive to the advancement of serious negotiations aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation, achieving the independence of the State of Palestine in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and achieving a just and final solution to all core issues.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 487 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 February 2014 (A/ES-10/618-S/2014/135) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/620–S/2014/180

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Security Council

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12 March 2014

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 12 March 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Tensions continue to escalate in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the Territory that constitutes the State of Palestine — owing to the unrelenting, illegal and repressive practices being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people.

Since my previous letter, more innocent Palestinian civilians have fallen victim to the depraved, excessive and lethal force used by the Israeli occupying army against the defenseless Palestinian civilian population in grave breach of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

On 10 March, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian man, Ra'ed Alaa'eddin Zuaiter, aged 38, at the Allenby Bridge crossing in the Jordan Valley. Mr. Zuaiter, who was a judge in the magistrate courts of Jordan and was travelling to his hometown of Nablus in the West Bank, was wantonly shot several times at close range with live ammunition.

Also on 10 March, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed 18-year-old Saji Sayel Darwish from the village of Beiteen near Ramallah. The occupying Power claims that such lethal force, riddling his body with bullets, was used against the young man because he was "throwing stones" near the settlement of Beit El.

On 11 March, the occupying forces caused the death of another young Palestinian man, Fedaa' Muhyideen Majadleh, when a military vehicle aggressively chased his car near the city of Tulkarem in the northern West Bank, causing him to veer off the road, killing him and seriously injuring the other civilian in the car, Ibrahim Adnan Shukri. At present, Majadleh's body has not been released and Shukri remains detained by the occupying forces.

On 11 March, the Israeli occupying forces launched airstrikes against an area south-east of Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip, deliberately killing three Palestinian

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men, Ismail Abu Joudeh, aged 23, Shaher Abu Shanab, aged 24, and Abdel Shafi Muammar, aged 33.

Throughout this period, the Israeli occupying forces have also continued to use excessive force against Palestinian civilians partaking in protests against the occupation throughout Palestine, causing injuries to dozens of people. This has included the following: the injury of several women during a peaceful demonstration on 8 March at the Qalandiya checkpoint near Ramallah; the injury of several youth protesting near Bethlehem on 10 March by rubber-coated bullets and tear gas canisters; and, on 11 March, the injury of five Palestinians, including a child, when Israeli occupying forces raided Al-Jalazoun refugee camp, north of Ramallah, and fired at civilians with live and rubber bullets. Moreover, the occupying Power continues its military raids and arrest campaign, with dozens of Palestinian civilians seized and detained in just the past few days.

These deliberate, brutal killings are heightening tensions and contributing directly to the further destabilization of the situation, fomenting deep anger and agitation among the Palestinian people and intensifying widespread scepticism regarding Israel's claimed commitment to peace. The ramifications of the persistence of such reckless, violent policies, which repeatedly exhibit Israel's total disregard for Palestinian lives, are potentially grave, both in terms of the situation on the ground and the fragile political negotiation process currently under way.

Moreover, it must be stressed that the wilful killing and injury of civilians constitutes a war crime under international humanitarian law, in accordance with article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Achieving justice for the Palestinian victims of such Israeli brutality requires serious measures to ensure that Israel, the occupying Power, is held accountable for all such crimes and is compelled to cease all of its violations against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation.

In this regard, we reiterate our call to the international community, including the Security Council and the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, to convey a firm message to Israel to halt forthwith the perpetration of these crimes and human rights violations against the Palestinian people and to demand that the occupying Power comply with its legal obligations and act with respect for the sanctity of human life. It is incumbent upon the international community to uphold this responsibility in line with the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant United Nations resolutions, the human rights covenants and the stipulation in common article 1 of the Geneva conventions to respect and ensure respect for the conventions in all circumstances. Palestine cannot continue to be the exception to all such international rules, principles and standards.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 488 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. The letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 5 March 2014 (A/ES-10/619-S/2014/154), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 20 March 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

As intense international efforts continue to advance the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its gross violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people and persists with its illegal colonization campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Such illegal and destructive actions are hastening the decline of conditions on the ground and poisoning the atmosphere required for the conduct of credible, substantive negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive solution.

Palestinian children continue to be targeted by the Israeli occupying forces, which continue to act with excessive and brutal force and blatant disregard for human life. Yesterday, a 14-year-old Palestinian boy, Yousef Nayif Al Shawamreh, was shot and murdered near the village of Dura, south of Al-Khalil, where he and other youths had been foraging for local plants in an area near the wall. The occupying forces arrested the two youths who were with him and have yet to release the body of yet another innocent Palestinian victim of such senseless violence.

We reiterate here the obligations incumbent upon Israel, as the occupying Power, in accordance with international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, towards the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. Under the law, our people are entitled to protection for their lives, welfare and safety. Yet, Israel persists with its wanton behaviour, in grave breach of international law, deliberately and systematically perpetrating acts of violence and human rights violations against the Palestinian people and flagrantly disregarding all norms and standards for the protection of the civilian population.

In this regard, in only the period since the resumption of peace negotiations in late July 2013, the Israeli occupying forces have killed 57 Palestinians and injured

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897 other civilians. There have also been more than 500 attacks by settlers on Palestinian civilians and their properties. Moreover, in the same period, the occupying forces have carried out over 3,767 military raids throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and arrested more than 3,000 Palestinians, including children. In this regard, we must once again draw attention to the critical human rights situation of the more than 5,000 Palestinians who remain captive in Israeli prisons and detention centres. We underscore the plight of eight prisoners who are currently on hunger strike in protest of their administrative detention, five of whom are currently in Israeli hospitals. All such illegal Israeli measures must be firmly condemned and Israel must respect the law and comply with all of its obligations without exception. Making peace demands this, and the principles of the human rights and dignity of peoples demand this.

At the same time, Israel has carried on with its settlement activities in Occupied Palestine, in grave breach of international law and in total contradiction to the peace process and the objective of realizing the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. In the past week alone, Israeli officials have announced plans for the construction of more than 1,000 more settlement units, including in Occupied East Jerusalem.

This includes announcements of plans to expand the "Ramot" settlement in East Jerusalem by 734 units and the "Ramat Shlomo" settlement in the same area by 389 units, which would further isolate the city from the Palestinian villages to the west. In addition, plans were advanced today for the construction of another 186 units, including in the settlements of "Pisgat Ze'ev" (40 units) and at "Har Homa" (140 units), in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Occupied East Jerusalem.

The fact is that Israel has declared its intent to proceed with more than 11,000 units in just the period since negotiations began. The decisions to proceed with such illegal actions not only seriously undermine the peace process and Israel's credibility in this regard, but are directly and physically harming the prospects for realization of the two-State solution. With every settlement unit and every action taken to further entrench this illegal Israeli colonization network, the contiguity of Palestinian land is undermined and the viability of the two-State solution is gravely diminished.

Moreover, Israel continues its provocations and illegal measures at and around holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, particularly at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. Severe restrictions continue to be enforced on access and freedom of worship by Palestinians, with the occupying Power preventing anyone under the age of 40 from entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the recent period, further isolating it, emptying it of its worshippers and preventing students from reaching schools in the area. Israel's illegal excavations under the compound also continue unabated. At the same time, settler groups and other extremists continue to be permitted entry to the compound and persist with their threats of mal-intent regarding the Mosque, amounting to grave incitement and resulting in rising tensions.

All such actions are endangering the foundations and sanctity of the compound, stirring religious emotions and destabilizing the situation. This is a matter of utmost seriousness to which we continue to appeal to the international community, including the Security Council, to give immediate attention. Israel must be compelled to cease all its provocations and illegal actions, to act to promote calm and to commit to peace. We are at a pivotal juncture in the search for peace, both in

terms of the political process and the conditions on the ground, in which respect for international law would greatly contribute to a de-escalation of tensions and the advancement of peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 489 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 March 2014 (A/ES-10/620-S/2014/180), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations